

MANATI STELLER, 1774 AND TRICHECHUS EXUNGUIS
(NATTERER IN DIESING, 1839) (MAMMALIA, SIRENIA):
PROPOSAL TO PLACE THESE NAMES ON THE OFFICIAL
INDEXES OF REJECTED AND INVALID NAMES IN
ZOOLOGY. Z.N.(S.)2338

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Hydrodamalis Retzius, 1794: p. 292 (type, by monotypy, *H. stelleri* Retzius, 1794, *ibid.*) was upheld over *Rhytina* (emended form of *Rytina* Illiger, 1811) as the generic name of Steller's sea cow by ICZN Opinion 90 (1925), though not placed on the Official List. The oldest available name for the type species, as noted by Palmer (1895), is *Manati gigas* Zimmermann, 1780. The spelling "manati" was commonly used in the 18th Century as a vernacular name for the manatee (*Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758), and Steller (1751), believing the tropical manatee to be identical with the animal he discovered at Bering Island, applied the term "manati" to both. Allen (1902) stated that "the generic name *Manati* [Zimmerman, 1780] is of even date with *Manatus* Storr [= *Trichechus* L.]", implying that he considered the two as homonyms. (*Manatus* Storr, 1780 is in fact a junior homonym of *Manatus* Brännich, 1771, which was rejected in favor of *Trichechus* by ICZN Opinion 112, 1929. Direction 13 placed both of the former names on the Official Index.) However, according to Article 56a of the Code, they must be regarded as distinct names, and the original applications of the name *Manati* were to Steller's sea cow. In addition to the combinations *Manati gigas* Zimmermann, 1780 and *Manati balaenurus* Boddaert, 1785, both senior objective synonyms of *Hydrodamalis stelleri* Retzius, 1794, there is a passage describing the Bering Island sea cows in a posthumous publication by Steller (1774, p. 97) which bears the heading "Die Seekuh *Manati*, auf russisch *Morskaia Korowa*" (italics in original). Though this usage was probably intended as vernacular, it could be interpreted as a valid uninominal publication of a new generic name, and I have treated it as such and as a *nomen oblitum* (Domning, 1978a, p. 74). As *Manati* has not been regarded as the valid name of any form for well over a century and a half, although an available senior objective synonym of *Hydrodamalis*, it should be formally suppressed.

2. The valid name of the Amazonian manatee is now universally considered to be *Trichechus inunguis* (Natterer in Peizeln, 1883, pp. 89-94), and this name has been consistently used by mammalogists during the last 50 years (*e.g.*, Hatt, 1934; Coates,

1939, 1940; Vieira, 1949; Frye & Herald, 1969; Robineau, 1969; Evans & Herald, 1970; Loughman *et al.*, 1970; Bertram & Ricardo Bertram, 1973; Sonoda and Takemura, 1973; Domning, 1978b; Bullock *et al.*, 1980). However, in 1839 the parasitologist Diesing described two new species of worms (*Heterocheilus tunicatus* and *Amphistoma fabaceum*) from Natterer's type series of this manatee. As the host species had been recognized by Natterer as new but had not yet been described in print, Diesing (1839, p. 230n) appended to his description of the parasites a lengthy quotation from Natterer's manuscript describing and naming the manatee. However, whereas the name appears in Pelzeln, 1883, as *Manatus inunguis*, Diesing (perhaps quoting from a different draft of the manuscript) has *Manatus exunguis*. This, the senior name, while unknown to mammalogists, has had a persistent life of its own in the parasitological literature, although I am aware of only three instances of its use in the 20th Century (Stunkard, 1929; Price, 1932; Baylis, 1936). In all three instances the name was merely cited as having been used by earlier writers for a host species, the host itself not being further discussed nor any new parasitological information relating to it being reported. Price, 1932, pp. 43, 58, even indicated uncertainty as to whether *inunguis* was not really the proper name. Though its use now appears to have died out even among parasitologists (cf. Boever *et al.*, 1977), the name *Trichechus exunguis* (Natterer in Diesing, 1839) should be suppressed to avoid any danger to the present universal acceptance of its junior objective synonym *T. inunguis*.

3. I therefore ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) to use its plenary powers

(a) to suppress the generic name *Manati* Steller, 1774 (first published uninominally and later in the binomina *Manati gigas* Zimmermann, 1780 and *Manati balaenurus* Boddaert, 1785) as an unused senior synonym of *Hydrodamalis* Retzius, 1794, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

(b) to suppress the specific name *exunguis* Natterer in Diesing, 1839, as published in the binomen *Manatus exunguis* (a senior objective synonym of *Manatus inunguis* Natterer in Pelzeln, 1883) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

(2) to place the generic name *Hydrodamalis* Retzius, 1794 (gender: feminine), type species, by monotypy, *Hydrodamalis stelleri* Retzius, 1794, on the Official List of Generic Names in

Zoology;

(3) to place the specific name *gigas* Zimm̃ermann, 1780, as published in the binomen *Manati gigas* (the valid specific name of the type species of *Hydrodamalis* Retzius, 1794) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(4) to place the generic name *Manati* Steller, 1774, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology;

(5) to place the specific name *exunguis* Natterer in Diesing, 1839, as published in the binomen *Manatus exunguis*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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